TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 9, 2005

LB 48, 748

their battle. Well, guess what? It's not just their battle. And I'm not sure anybody else has had a significant voice in this. Let me give you an example. I can't ... I cannot count on five hands the amount of developers who have come out and told me, if you put the clamps on these public utilities who are actually doing business right, the ones that we own and the board members that we elect, you're making a mistake. granted, they have their own private personal reasons for saying things like that, but do they believe it? I mean, it occurred to me that why would they say things like this, why would they approach it from this angle, I mean, if they really didn't have hard-core, hard-line fears about what was going to transpire? I do not want the Metropolitan Utilities District in Omaha dictating the state's natural gas policy. Make no mistake about it, I want it read into the record, I don't want that to happen. I also don't believe that it's a wise thing to do to take some of the ... what I would consider the best players in the business, and maybe LB 748 does not allow for that, to take some of the best players in the business and to handcuff them without having the appropriate consumer, developer, user input that I think is required. And, quite frankly, I don't think we've had I think that's yet to come. I think Senator Landis that yet. may disagree. I think Senator Bourne may even disagree. guess what? It took years to develop an idea, and late nights to come to a conclusion and to pull LB 790, which is the regulation of the gas industry, together. A lot of people worked real hard on that effort, Senator Landis being one of them, and a lot of folks happen to stand...happen to be standing behind the glass. I don't think we can dismiss that now. I don't think we can dismiss his efforts, Senator Bourne's efforts, Omaha's efforts, Lincoln's efforts and the rest of the state. I would submit this to you. I don't know that we have an answer out here this year. That's my point. We kicked two bills out real fast, you guys can all come to me and blame me for that if you'd like, but I don't know that we have the answer and I don't know if this is it either. But let me tell you this. If we don't step back and proceed with caution, we may get something we don't like and then we're going to be back here. I've had people tell me, if we don't do LB 48, we're just going to be back next year in order to try to accomplish...look, we don't have to do either of these bills, folks. That's the